Message from the Department

Dear sociology community,

This is the first edition of our annual department newsletter (thank you Angie Mendoza!). In these pages you will find news about the activities and accomplishments of the past year, including great jobs won by all 7 of our PhD graduates and 2 of our postdocs. The newsletter also previews upcoming events, including new classes, workshops, and colloquium guests. Our community is large, with more than 500 undergraduate majors, 35 graduate students, 3 postdocs, 30 core and affiliated faculty, and 6 staff members. Here we highlight the especially cheerful and sometimes surprising activities of many of our members. Especially in the context of a government that stirs hate and the disgraceful string of scandals at USC, all of us in sociology depend on each other for intellectual nurturance, growth, and strength. Thank you for the enriching environment and social good that your research, teaching, and service work creates. We look forward to a wonderful year with you.

Tim Biblarz, Chair
Jen Hook, co-Director of Graduate Studies
Jody Vallejo, co-Director of Graduate Studies
Karen Sternheimer, Director of Undergraduate Studies
A Warm Welcome!

Deisy del Real graduated from UCLA in June 2019 with a PhD in Sociology. She will join us as a Provost Postdoctoral Fellow in 2019, a Turpanjian Postdoctoral Fellow in 2020, and a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology in 2021. Her research focuses on South American Migration Policy and Undocumented Immigration.

Rodolfo Lopez Moreno graduated from UC Irvine in 2018 with a PhD in Sociology. His research focuses on social movements and their interactions with state institutions, collective action, political sociology, social networks, and Latin America. He joins us this fall as a Postdoctoral Scholar - Teaching Fellow.

Welcome our new graduate cohort!

Maria Labourt
Demetrius Murphy
Thuan Nguyen
Kritika Pandey
Giianne Sheena Sabio
Chi Pan (Kennedy) Wong

Join all students, faculty, and staff in celebration of the start of a new year.

8/28/19
12-2pm
Assoc. Park

Reserve tickets: https://bit.ly/2T5FWNS

“"The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.”
- Pierre Bourdieu
What’s New in 2019–2020?

New Courses

**GESM 130g Seminar in Social Analysis: Sociology of the Olympics**
Through readings, media, and discussion, this course uses a range of social science perspectives to view the Olympics as more than a sporting event.
Ann Owens
annowens@usc.edu

**GESM 130g Seminar in Social Analysis: Central American & Mexican Immigration**
This new freshman seminar will apply methods of sociological analysis to the study of Central American and Mexican immigration.
Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo
sotelo@usc.edu

**SOCI 654 Social Movements**
This course generates a robust understanding of theories explaining the emergence, dynamics, and outcomes of collective action aimed at generating or preventing social change.
Hajar Yazdiha
hyazdiha@usc.edu

**SOCI 658 Sociology of Health and Medicine**
This seminar covers two topics: 1) the social roots of sickness and 2) medicine as a social institution. It focuses primarily on the United States.
Josh Seim
jseim@usc.edu

Global South Studies Works in Progress Speaker Series

In the year 2019–2020, the Global South Studies Working Group under the sponsorship of USC Dornsife and USC Sociology will host scholars addressing pertinent issues of globalization. Guests include Kimberly Kay Hoang, Onoso Imoagene, Caroline Kabiru, Orlrich Krpec, Deisy del Real, Nguyen Thi Hien, and Denise Cruz.

Visit our website for more information.

**Sociologists on the Committee:**
Rhacel Salazar Parrenas
Emily Smith-Greenaway
“It is always of interest to know what strikes another human being as remarkable.”

- Graham Greene

2018-2019 EVENT RECAP

Joyce Bell
University of Minnesota

Jeremy Freese
Stanford University

Bruce D. Haynes
University of Minnesota

Minjeong Kim
San Diego State University

Ashley Mears
Boston University

Lauren Rivera
 Northwestern University

Nitsan Chorev

David Cook-Martin

Deisy Del Real

Katrina Quisumbing-King

Adaner Usmani

Burrel Vann

Time Management & Productivity

Publications

The Job Market

Empirical Paper Presentations

Dissertation Presentations

Sociology Speaker Series

Philippe Bourgois

UCLA

Karida Brown

UCLA

Cecilia Menjivar & Victor Agadjanian

UCLA

Julie Posselt

USC

Josh Seim

USC

Talks

Megan Carroll

Nicole Hirsch

April Hovav

Jared Schachner

Michael Siciliano

Professional Development Sessions

2019-2020 Colloquium Preview

Elaine Bell Kaplan

Associate Professor of Sociology
University of Southern California

Pacific Sociological Association Presidential Address
September 4, 2019

Playing in the Gray: Offshoring and Foreign Investment in Frontier Markets

October 11, 2019

Kimberly Kay Hoang

Assistant Professor of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania

Broken Mirrors and Reflections: A Study of Footprints from the US Diversity Visa Lottery Program
October 30, 2019

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Department Spotlights

Staff

Melissa G. Hernandez
Project Specialist

Hobbies/interests: Reading, weightlifting, yoga, Yelping new restaurants, traveling, volunteering at my local dog shelter, hiking, football (college & NFL), anything USC

Fun fact: I almost worked for the FBI

Angie Mendoza
Administrative Assistant II

Hobbies/interests: Scrapbooking, beading, comics, anime

Fun fact: My kids and I cosplay at LA Comic-Con and in 2019, I reached the milestone of 20 years of service to USC

Amber Thomas-Handford
Budget Technician

Hobbies/interests: Sports, art, fashion

Fun fact: I was a first-generation college student and formerly played on the women’s basketball team at USC

Arshia Malek
Academic Advisor
Health and Human Sciences

Fun fact: I love music and once won a fully paid trip to the Rock in Rio music festival in Brazil from a local L.A. alternative radio station

Stachelle Overland
Academic Advisor
Graduate and Sociology (A-L)

Fun Fact: This year, I created my first podcast as a 2019 State of Formation Fellow and started the MSSE program at the Marshall School of Business

Thaddesia Southall
Academic Advisor
NGO’s and Social Change, Sociology (M-Z)

Fun Fact: I love music and once won a fully paid trip to the Rock in Rio music festival in Brazil from a local L.A. alternative radio station

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Department Spotlights

Faculty & Post-Docs

Elaine Bell-Kaplan
Associate Professor of Sociology
Presided over the Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting as President

Ann Owens
Associate Professor of Sociology and Spatial Sciences
Selected as a William T. Grant Scholars Award recipient for 2019-2024

Nicole Hirsch
Turpanjian Postdoctoral Fellow
Became a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues at U.C. Berkeley and Director of Research & Equity Strategist at LadyPowers, LLC

Rhacel Salazar Parrenas
Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies
Received the 2019 Jessie Bernard Award and was elected Vice-President of the American Sociological Association and member of the Sociological Research Association

Manuel Pastor
Professor of Sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity
Appointed Distinguished Professor by President of the University

Katrina Quisumbing-King
Provost Postdoctoral Fellow
Accepted an Assistant Professor position at Northwestern University for Fall 2020

Josh Seim
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Received honorable mention for the ASAs Best Dissertation Award, and the Simmons Prize for best dissertation in medical sociology

Michael Siciliano
USC Sociology Teaching Postdoctoral Fellow
Accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at Queen’s University, Ontario

Emily Smith-Greenaway
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Received a NIH R03 grant and a research award from the Max Planck Society

John Wilson
Professor of Sociology, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, Architecture and Preventive Medicine
Received the 2019 Education Award from the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
Department Spotlights
Current Students

Valentina Cantori
PhD Candidate
Received a Summer Research and Writing Grant

Latoya Council
PhD Candidate
Received the 2019 Louise Kerckhoff Prize for Best Gender Studies Paper award, an Endowed Fellowship, and a Summer Research and Writing grant

Robert Chlala
PhD Candidate
Received the 2nd place prize from the American Association of Geographers for the Sexuality & Space Graduate Paper

Minwoo Jung
PhD Candidate
Received the Endowed Fellowship

Carolyn Choi
PhD Candidate
Received the 2019 Korea Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

May Lin
PhD Candidate
Received the Final Year Fellowship and Dick Cone Award for Engaged Scholarship

Lizette Solorzano Perez
PhD Candidate
Won a University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and the 2019 Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

Shang Liu
PhD Candidate
Received an OYCF-Chow Field Research Fellowship and was named 2019 OYCF-Chow Fellow of the Year

Thalia Tom
PhD Candidate
Awarded the U.S. Stanford Center on Poverty & Inequality American Voices Project Research Fellowship

Oded Marom
PhD Candidate
Received the 2019 Center for Communal Studies Graduate Paper Award

Rachelle Wang-Cendejas
PhD Candidate
Awarded a Phi Kappa Phi Dissertation Fellowship for 2019
Alumni

April Hovav
PhD Sociology, ’19
Received the 2019 Cheryl Allyn Miller Award; the ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section Best Graduate Student Paper Award; and accepted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the UCSD Institute for Practical Ethics

Alfredo Huante
PhD Sociology, ’19
Accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Denver Interdisciplinary Research Incubator of Ineqaulity

Chelsea Johnson
PhD Sociology, ’19
Accepted a position with LinkedIn as a User Experience Researcher

Krittiya Kantachote
PhD Sociology, ’19
Accepted a tenure-track position at Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand

Jennifer Candipan
PhD Sociology, ’19
Received the 2019 USC PhD Achievement Award and accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University

Megan Carroll
PhD Sociology, ’19
Accepted a tenure-track position at CSU San Bernardino

Kusban Dasgupta
PhD Sociology, ’19
Accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics

Erin Erickson
BA Sociology, ’19
Currently works as a Research Assistant at the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation

For opportunities to be featured in the future, update your alumni information! https://bit.ly/2N2gU2W
Undergraduate Majors

Health and Human Sciences

Health and Human Sciences is an interdisciplinary major that explores how social, cultural, economic, psychological and biological factors shape health and wellness. Preparing for a career in health requires an understanding of the social components of health in addition to a thorough understanding of the natural sciences.

Students choose courses from both natural and social sciences, selecting an area of focus that fits their unique interests. The major also includes an experiential learning component, and many students in this major plan on pursuing health-related careers.

Non-Governmental Organizations and Social Change

NGOs and Social Change is an interdisciplinary major that enables students to learn about what non-governmental organizations are and how they interact with other organizations and institutions. Students choose courses from disciplines ranging from Sociology, International Relations, Political Science, Philosophy, Economics, and Public Policy to better understand social problems both locally and globally.

Students in this major also study how organizations work through participation in an internship. Through hands-on experience working in an NGO, students better understand the opportunities and challenges to create social change.
**Programs and Resources**

**CSII Graduate Student Working Group on Race and Immigration**

The CSII Immigration and Race graduate student working group seeks to be a professional network for graduate students interested in immigration, integration, and race and ethnic relations research. The student group hosts workshops, discussion panels, and research presentations. To support our goal of being a community for scholarly development, meetings provide ample opportunities for the collaboration and sharing of members' work.

*Jody Agius Vallejo*

vallejoj@usc.edu

**Ethnography of Public Life**

EPL is a workshop of scholars who study everyday life in institutional or informal settings, real or virtual. We use ethnography, perhaps alongside other methods, to research civic and political life, public space, and the public aspects of social problems. In short, EPL is a forum for sharpening our ethnographic research and writing skills as we study public life.

*Paul Lictherman*

lichterm@usc.edu

**South/South: Critical Ethnographies Workshop**

The first annual meeting of the University of Southern California South/South Critical Ethnographies Workshop will take place April 2-3, 2020. It is designed to develop ethnographic methodologies that advance Global South Studies, provide hands-on mentorship to graduate student fellows, and build an interdisciplinary community of ethnographers.

*Faculty Fellows: Marco Garrido, Tanya Gólash-Boza, Natasha Iskander*

**South/South: Critical Ethnographies Call for Papers**

Between August 1, 2019 to December 20, 2019, we invite applications from graduate students in any discipline who are engaged in dissertation-level, ethnographic research on the Global South. We are particularly interested in works that document and examine south-to-south flows of culture, materials, monies and people. Dissertation projects that focus on vulnerable populations will be given special consideration.

Submit papers to uscglobalsouth@gmail.com

Visit our website for more information

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- Pierre Bourdieu
**USC Department of Sociology**

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- Pierre Bourdieu

**Programs and Resources**

**Sociology Honors Program**
Undergraduate juniors and seniors in all three department majors with a GPA of 3.5 or above and who submit an honors thesis proposal can apply to join the Sociology Honors Program.

Karen Sternheimer  
sternheim@usc.edu

**2019 Honors Students**

**Emma Arroyo**  
B.A. Health and Human Sciences,  
Minor in Organizational Leadership and Management/  
J.D. Law (progressive degree)

Emma will be attending the USC Gould School of Law. She plans to pursue a career in Health Law, combining her passions for health and human studies.

**Jacqueline Chen**  
B.A. Health and Human Sciences,  
Minor in Health Care Studies/  
M.S. Gerontology (progressive degree)

Jacqueline will be attending medical school this fall. She aspires to become a physician who will provide care for older adults and improve healthcare delivery for the aging population.

**Ana Jazmin Mercado**  
B.A. Sociology;  
B.A. Contemporary Latino & Latin American Studies

Ana aspires to work at a non-profit organization focused on expanding educational and legal access/resources to the immigrant community. Her ultimate goal is to attend law school and become an Immigration Attorney.
Publications and Mentions

Jody Agius-Vallejo  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
and American Studies and Ethnicity

Jody co-edited a Special Issue of *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* on Immigrants and Wealth Attainment  
Published May 3, 2019

Lynne Casper  
Professor of Sociology

Lynne's research was mentioned in the *New York Times* article, “Why Women, but Not Men, Are Judged for a Messy House”  
Published June 11, 2019

Jennifer Candipan  
PhD Sociology, '19

“Linking Residential and School Enrollment Decisions in Gentrifying Neighborhoods” was accepted in *Sociology of Education*

May Lin  
PhD Candidate

*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* published “From Alienated to Activists: Expressions and Formation of Group Consciousness among Asian American Young Adults” and “Yesterday They Marched, Today They Mobilized the Vote: A Developmental Model for Civic Leadership among the Children of Immigrants”

Megan Carroll  
PhD Sociology, '19

Megan was featured in the podcast *Inside Higher Ed Academic Minute* for her research on incidental activism  
Aired March 19, 2019

April Hovav  
PhD Sociology, '19

April's article “Producing Moral Palatability in the Mexican Surrogacy Market” was published in *Gender & Society*

Carolyn Choi  
PhD Candidate

Carolyn's co-authored works were published in *Social and Cultural Geography; Springer Handbook on the Sociology of Gender; and International Migration Review*

May Lin  
PhD Candidate

*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* published “From Alienated to Activists: Expressions and Formation of Group Consciousness among Asian American Young Adults” and “Yesterday They Marched, Today They Mobilized the Vote: A Developmental Model for Civic Leadership among the Children of Immigrants”

*Family Relations* and *Journal of Family Issues* published Megan's research on gay fathers

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Publications and Mentions

Chelsea Johnson, Carolyn Choi, and LaToya Council published a children's book about intersectional feminism: **Intersection Allies**

Published July 16, 2019

Mike's new book *Guys Like Me* was released and has since been mentioned in over 10 online and print publications

Published November 9, 2018

*CityLab* and the *New York Times* mentioned Ann's research

Published April 9, 2019 and July 17, 2019

The *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* published “Precarity chains: cycles of domestic worker migration from Southeast Asia to the Middle East”

Published April 19, 2019

Manuel released the book *State of Resistance* and the *New York Times* article, “The Supreme Court Should Take a Field Trip to California” mentioned his research

Published October 23, 2018 and June 15, 2019
Blanca Ramirez was interviewed by IMM PRINT, one of the leading publications by and for people affected by immigration deportation

Published February 26, 2019

*Latino Public Policy* published “Interrupted Family Ties: How the Detention or Deportation of a Parent Transforms Family Life”

Published August 2018

Karina Santellano
PhD Candidate

Inside Higher Ed published Karina's article “Alumni Should Be Activists for Institutional Change”

Published June 1, 2018


Published March 2019

Emily's research was accepted and published in *Demography, Journal of Marriage and Family*, and *Social Forces*

Haj's research was mentioned in the *New York Times* article "U.S. Law Enforcement Failed to See the Threat of White Nationalism. Now They Don't Know How to Stop It"

Published November 3, 2018

*Ethnic and Racial Studies* published "Exclusion through acculturation? Comparing first- and second-generation European Muslims’ perceptions of discrimination across four national contexts"

Published April 4, 2019

For opportunities to be featured in the future, tell us about your accomplishments! shorturl.at/dsEOZ
“Everyone of our relationships with nature and man must be a definite expression of our real, individual life.”

- Karl Marx

**Celebration of Life**

**A Warm Welcome**

Professor Hajar Yazdiha and her family welcomed Leila on October 28, 2018. She weighed 8lbs and measured 23” long.

PhD candidate Jihye Lee and her husband Josh welcomed Noah on January 24, 2019. He weighed 6lbs 12oz and measured 21” long.

PhD candidate Oded Marom and his family welcomed Avigail on February 14, 2019. She weighed 6lbs 11oz and measured 19” long. It was indeed a happy Valentine’s Day!

PhD candidate Lizette Solorzano and her husband welcomed Noelle on April 17, 2019. She weighed 6 lbs 14 oz and measured 19” long.

Professor Josh Seim and his family welcomed Nora Elizabeth Seim on June 13, 2019. She weighed 6 lbs 11 oz.
Reflections

My coursework and research through USC Sociology has enabled me to apply critical thought and social theories towards my interests in global health and development, public health policy, and quantitative research. After graduating, I spent a few weeks in Balaka, Malawi, assisting Emily Smith-Greenaway on the Tsogolo la Thanzi longitudinal study. After returning from Malawi, I will work full-time as a Public Health Analyst at the Center for the Health of At-Risk Populations with RTI International, focusing on child and adolescent health policies and outcomes.

I am excited to continue research in the realm of public health, medical sociology, and social demography in a full-time setting!

As a 2017 USC graduate who majored in NGOs and Social Change, I couldn’t have been more excited to join the team at the Department of Sociology back in August 2018. I greatly appreciate my coworkers and supervisors for helping me feel welcomed and comfortable asking all of the questions I needed to, many times more than once, during my transition from student to staff.

I am excited to keep building relationships and developing professionally this coming year as I continue my education through the Master of Science in Social Entrepreneurship program at the USC Marshall School of Business. Events and guest visits for 2019-2020, plus accounting homework? Challenge accepted.

In Loving Remembrance Of

Professor Emeritus of Sociology Maurice “Don” Van Arsdol passed away on September 19, 2019. Don was an extraordinary educator and supportive mentor who worked at USC Dornsife for 38 years, authoring more than 75 papers over his research career. He studied urban growth matters, family planning issues, and sea-level rise, and had many other broad interests. He and his wife met in an elementary orchestra and were married for 68 years. He was a gentleman, kind and witty, who will always be remembered with the utmost love.

Read the full memorium: https://bit.ly/2Z4Zk3E

Connect with us!